

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An adapter for electrically and mechanically connecting a battery pack with ~~an electrical apparatus~~ a power tool, the battery pack and the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool being otherwise incompatible, the adapter comprising:

a first portion for releasable attachment to the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool; and
a second portion for physically and securely receiving at least a portion of the battery pack;

a latching mechanism for securing the adapter to the power tool, the latching mechanism including a button connected to a housing of the adapter; and

whereby the adapter completes an electrical circuit between the battery pack and the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool;

wherein the adapter defines an aperture for receiving a nose portion of the battery pack.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a nose portion for receipt into an aperture of the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool and defines an aperture for receiving a nose portion of the battery pack.

7. (Currently Amended) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with ~~an electrical apparatus~~ a power tool of claim 6, wherein the aperture defined by the adapter extends in a direction generally parallel to the nose portion of the adapter.

8. (Currently Amended) A cordless power tool assembly comprising:

a tool housing;

an external working member extending from the tool housing for performing a working operation on a workpiece;

a motor in the housing for driving the working member;

a battery pack for providing power to the motor; and

an adapter for electrically connecting the battery pack and the motor, the adapter releasably attached to the tool housing and physically receiving at least a portion of the battery pack;

wherein the adapter includes a nose portion receiving an aperture of the tool housing and defines an aperture receiving a nose portion of the battery pack.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus~~ cordless power tool assembly of claim 8, wherein the adapter includes a pair of rails slidably engaging the tool housing and defines an aperture receiving a nose portion of the battery pack.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus~~ cordless power tool assembly of [claim 10] claim 8, wherein the aperture defined by the adapter extends in a direction generally parallel to the nose portion of the adapter.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting ~~an electrical apparatus~~ a power tool for use with a battery pack which is not directly attachable to the power tool, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an adapter for electrically connecting the battery pack to the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool;

releasably attaching the adapter to the housing of the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool;

physically receiving at least a portion of the battery pack by the adapter so as to establish an electrical circuit between the ~~electrical apparatus~~ power tool and the battery pack;

driving an external working member of the power tool under the power of the battery pack to perform a working operation on a workpiece; and

removing the battery pack from the adapter by depressing a latching mechanism carried by the battery pack;

wherein the step of physically receiving at least a portion of the battery pack by the adapter so as to establish an electrical circuit between the power tool and the battery pack includes the steps of providing the battery pack with a nose portion and inserting the nose portion into an aperture defined by the adapter.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting ~~an electrical apparatus a power tool~~ for use with a battery pack which is not directly attachable to the power tool of claim 12, wherein the step of releasably attaching the adapter to the housing includes the steps of providing the adapter with a pair of rails and slidably engaging the rails with the housing.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting ~~an electrical apparatus a power tool~~ for use with a battery pack which is not directly attachable to the power tool of claim 12, wherein the step of releasably attaching the adapter to the housing includes the steps of providing the adapter with a nose portion and inserting the nose portion into an

aperture defined by the housing.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting ~~an electrical apparatus—a power tool~~ for use with a battery pack which is not directly attachable to the power tool of claim 12, wherein the step of physically receiving at least a portion of the battery pack by the adapter so as to establish an electrical circuit between the ~~electrical apparatus power tool~~ and the battery pack includes the steps of providing the battery pack with a pair of rails and slidably engaging the rails with the adapter.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 1, wherein the aperture defined by the adapter extends in a direction generally perpendicular to the nose portion of the adapter.

21. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a pair of rails for slidably engaging the power tool.

22. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 21, wherein the button is connected to the housing of the adapter through a

cantilevered portion.

23. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 22, wherein the latching mechanism further comprises a spring for outwardly biasing the button.

24. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 22, wherein the button includes a flange for engaging a groove defined by the housing of the power tool when the adapter is secured to the power tool.

25. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a batter pack with a power tool of claim 21, wherein the pair of rails extend in a direction parallel to an axis defined by the aperture of the adapter.

26. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with a power tool of claim 1, in combination with the battery pack and power tool.

27. (New) An adapter for electrically and mechanically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of a power tool system, the battery pack and the electrical apparatus being otherwise incompatible, the adapter comprising:

a first portion for releasable attachment to the electrical apparatus of the power tool system; and

a second portion for physically receiving at least a portion of the battery pack;

whereby the adapter completes an electrical circuit between the battery pack and the electrical apparatus.

28. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a latching mechanism for securing the adapter to the electrical apparatus, the latching mechanism comprising a button connected to a housing of the adapter through a cantilevered portion.

29. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of claim 28, wherein the latching mechanism further comprises a spring for outwardly biasing the button.

30. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of claim 28, wherein the button includes a flange for engaging a groove defined by the housing of the electrical apparatus when the adapter is secured to the power tool.

31. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of claim 27, wherein the electrical apparatus is a power tool.

32. (New) The adapter for electrically connecting a battery pack with an electrical apparatus of claim 27, wherein the electrical apparatus is a charger.